1.5.3 Carbon Emission Comparisons

One million metric ton of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions equals:

- the combustion of 518 thousand short tons of coal
- the coal input to 1 coal plant (200-MW) in ten and a half months
- the combustion of 18 billion cubic feet of natural gas
- the combustion of 116 million gallons of gasoline = the combustion of gasoline for 7 hours in the U.S.
  - = 0.28 million new cars, each driven 12,500 miles
  - = 243 thousand new light-duty vehicles, each driven 12,200 miles
  - = 237 thousand new light trucks, each driven 11,000 miles
  - = 0.13 million new passenger cars, each making 5 round trips from New York to Los Angeles
- the combustion of 188 million gallons of LPG
- the combustion of 107 million gallons of kerosene
- the combustion of 101 million gallons of distillate fuel
- the combustion of 87 million gallons of residual fuel
- 19 minutes of world energy emissions
- 90 minutes of U.S energy emissions
- 3.9 hours of U.S. buildings energy emissions
- 7 hours of U.S. residential energy emissions
- 8 hours of U.S. commercial energy emissions
- 1 day of U.S. buildings lighting energy emissions
- average annual per capita emissions of 181,000 people in the U.S.

Source(s): EIA, Annual Energy Outlook 2008, Mar. 2008, Table A2, p. 117-119, Table A7, p. 129-130 for consumption, Table A18, p. 147 for emissions, and Table G1, p. 215 for heat rates; EIA, Electric Power Annual 2006, September 2007, Table 2.2, page 19; EIA, International Energy Outlook 2008, June 2008, Table A10, p. 93; EIA, Assumptions to the AEO 2008, June 2008, Table 2, p. 9 for carbon coefficients; and DOC, Statistical Abstract of the United States 2008, Jan. 2008, No. 2, p. 8 and No. 1084, p. 715.